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THE PRESERVATION OF TEXAS HISTORY

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The history of Texas is full of color and romance, as any loyal child of the state is likely to proclaim at the slightest opportunity; and it has a strong and legitimate interest also for the cool and impartial historian. The reason is evident; for Texas has always been, and still is, a border-land. Spaniard, Frenchman, Indian, Mexican, and Anglo-American have contested for its possession. It has had a peculiar importance in the history of the United States. Today its laws, institutions, place-names and even its folk-lore proclaim its varied heritage. Within its capacious boundaries meet and blend the traditions, customs and cultures of Latin-America, of the old South, and of the western plains. Whether or no the average Texan is aware of the larger implications of this history, he is generally fascinated by what he knows of the story.

Yet with all this popular pride, it is only within the last generation or so that the state itself has undertaken seriously to preserve the evidences of its history; and even now the results are not what they might easily have been. The chief reason for this official negligence is that for a long time the state was poor; and though poverty may not curb the imagination, it stifles action. A great deal has been accomplished, as the following pages will show; but much of the work has been done by agencies not usually employed in other states. It will be necessary in this paper, therefore, to take a somewhat broader range than has been done in most of the articles in this series. It would not be possible otherwise to explain the situation in Texas.

THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

When the Republic of Texas was established in 1836 the govern-

ment possessed only the brief records of the Revolution. In 1839 the capital of the young Republic was located far out on the frontier at the new town of Austin, where the offices of the government were housed in log cabins. Soon afterwards Congress made an appropriation for books for the use of the government. This was the first state library. At that time it was a bureau in the state department and consisted solely of these books. The several departments retained custody of their archives. For years these archives were in a precarious condition, for they were exposed not only to the danger of fire but to hostile attack. The Indians raided into the very edge of the little capital city while the Mexicans threatened the western settlements. In 1842 a Mexican force captured San Antonio, and President Houston ordered the archives removed to Houston. The citizens of Austin, fearing that this meant the loss of the seat of government, captured the archives wagon-train and refused to let the records go. In 1845 the government again returned to Austin. In 1854 a new stone capitol was begun, and with its completion in 1856 the library was moved into better quarters.

In the meantime several departments had begun the collection of those records of the Spanish and Mexican governments which pertained to their own work. From the date of its creation the general land office had sought to bring together all records relating to land grants and colonization. In 1850 the legislature authorized the secretary of state to receive from the county clerk of Nacogdoches County the records which had accumulated there during the Spanish and Mexican periods. These papers were transferred to the state department, but as no funds were provided for help in arranging them they remained unopened in the bundles and boxes in which they arrived. The comptroller's department seems to have kept its papers, but they were so voluminous that they were stored about wherever they could be put without regard to order.

The State suffered an irretrievable loss in 1855 when the adjutant general's office burned with all its records. There is a tradition that certain wayward citizens had a lively interest in some of the criminal records in the office which they desired expunged, and that the fire was not accidental. Whether this was true or not, the deplorable fact remains that the fire consumed not only priceless records of the early frontier but also those of the army and navy

of the Republic. With this one exception, however, the archives of the several departments remained fairly intact.

In 1876, after the Democrats had regained control of the state government, the state library was taken out of the state department and placed in the newly created department of insurance, statistics, and history. The commissioner of this department was authorized to demand and receive from all other officers of the state government who might have them in charge "all books, maps, papers, documents, memoranda and data, not connected with or necessary to the current duties of said departments or officers, as relate to the history of Texas as a Province, Colony, Republic and State, and carefully to classify, catalogue, number and preserve the same." The first commissioner, V. O. King,, had a lively interest in the history of Texas, and during the years 1877-1879 took the first steps toward collecting the source materials by the transfer of many thousands of manuscripts from the state department. They were wrapped and placed in tin boxes, without chronological order, and placed in the vault of the library. Here they were safe but inaccessible.

In November, 1881, the capitol burned and with it the state library. All the books, several files of old Texas newspapers, and a number of interesting historical relics were destroyed. Fortunately the manuscripts in the vault escaped destruction, and the records of the governor's office were carried out of the burning building and saved. Because the capitol had long before become too small to contain all the offices, the departments of state, treasury, comptroller, adjutant-general and the general land office were housed in other buildings and were unharmed. But the library was gone; no librarian was appointed for ten years, and during that time no serious effort was made to establish a new library. Until 1888, when the new granite capitol was completed, the department to which the library belonged was given cramped quarters within a small building known as "the temporary capitol." Although a few gifts of manuscripts had been made during the ten-year interval after the fire, it was not until the employment of "a historical clerk" was authorized by the legislature in 1891 that any real progress was made in re-establishing the library.

The new clerk was Judge C. W. Rains. His appointment by his friend, Gov. Jas. S. Hogg, seems to have been purely political.

There is nothing to indicate that Judge Rains had any previous training or special interest in the work he was to do; but he was a man of intelligence, energy, and education, possessed of scholarly tastes, and he soon developed an ardent love for the work entrusted to him. A small appropriation enabled him to travel over the state begging and buying books, manuscripts and newspapers. The library under his care began to develop along lines of usefulness that gained better support for it from the legislature. In 1896 Judge Rains published a *Bibliography of Texas* which was remarkable for its day and is still useful. His *Bibliography* and H. H. Bancroft's *North Mexican States and Texas* first called attention to the wealth of historical material in the Southwest.

While Judge Rains was building the first collection of *Texana* belonging to the state, Professor George P. Garrison was engaged in organizing his Texas history seminar at the University of Texas near by. The labor of the former prepared the way for the latter; while in turn the influence of that Texas history seminar and of Professor Garrison and Bugbee and their successors has determined the whole course of building the present Texas collections and of writing Texas history.

Though appropriations were meagre, within ten years after his first appointment Judge Rains had again brought the library to respectable proportions—some 28,000 volumes. But he had neither the training nor the time to put the manuscript collections, many of which were in Spanish, into condition for use by students. A great impetus was given to making the library a place for historical research when in 1903 a young man, Mr. E. W. Winkler, was added to the staff as “classifier and translator of manuscripts.” Trained in historical research under Professor Garrison at the University of Texas and Professor F. J. Turner at the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Winkler brought to his new task a keen sense of the value of historical materials and an astonishing capacity for tireless labor. He began the classification of the mass of material and found that it belonged to three major groups: (1) the archives of the Republic and the State since 1835; (2) collections of personal papers; (3) the so-called Nacogdoches Archives.

The first group consists chiefly of the records of the state treasury and comptroller's departments, and of a number of Texas

army and navy papers that had been in the comptroller's archives and thus escaped the fire in 1855. The last two belonged to the period of the Republic, 1836-1845. Though the group as a whole was not large, since only a small portion of the departmental records had been transferred to the library at that time, it was an important mass of material. The second group comprised, among others, papers of Anthony Butler, Memucan Hunt, W. D. Miller, F. R. Lubbock, and S. M. Swenson. The first three belong to the time of the Republic, the others to the early State. Some of them are of exceptional importance. The third group is by far the largest and in some respects the most important, and a brief description of it may be desirable. Nacogdoches, though the oldest Spanish settlement in eastern Texas, was in such an unstable condition prior to 1821 that its records before that date are very scanty. From 1823 to 1836 the records of the local government are continuous, if not complete. In 1834 the town became the seat of a department of Texas under a "political chief" who was driven out in March, 1836, when the Texans declared their independence of Mexico. The Nacogdoches Archives contain, therefore: the records of the municipality of Nacogdoches, 1823-1836; the correspondence of the political chief of the Department of Nacogdoches, 1834-1836; considerable miscellaneous material relating to Nacogdoches; correspondence of the political chief at San Antonio de Bexar, 1823-1836; correspondence of the governors of Texas at San Antonio, 1749-1824; and correspondence of various officials at Mexico City, Monterey, Saltillo, and Monclova from about 1756 to 1835. The total comprises perhaps 30,000 pages and is almost entirely in Spanish. The collection is very important for local relations of Spanish and Mexican frontier officials with the encroaching Americans.¹

After classifying these documents and arranging them in chronological order, Mr. Winkler proceeded to calendar them and to begin translating those most likely to be of immediate use. This was necessarily slow work. In the meantime the library continued to grow by gift and purchase of books, newspapers and manuscripts, and by the transfer of departmental records. The emphasis was now thrown upon primary rather than secondary

¹ See the *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics, and History for . . . 1903*, pp. xv-xxiv. For some account of the earlier history of the State library see also the *Thirty-First Annual Report* of the same official, *Part II*, 1906.

sources. When Judge Rains died in August, 1906, Mr. Winkler became librarian. He labored hard to realize his ideal of making the State library "the treasure house of information relating to Texas and the Southwest" and to "permit nothing relating to Texas to escape."

The importance and general usefulness of the library was greatly enhanced by the passage of a law in 1909 creating the Texas Library and Historical Commission. This was the result of years of effort on the part of a number of public-spirited citizens who were interested both in gathering materials for the study of Texas history and in promoting public libraries throughout the State. In 1897 both the Texas State Historical Association and the State Federation of Women's Clubs had come into existence. The nucleus of the former was a group of prominent "old Texans" who were brought together by Professor Garrison. It was and still is a voluntary organization supported by the dues of its members, and its chief activity has been the publication of a Quarterly. This Association procured the introduction into the legislature of a bill to create a Texas Historical Commission along the line of those in other states. It failed for want of energetic support. The Federation of Women's Clubs was interested in the establishment of public libraries. In 1903 the Federation had a bill introduced to establish a State Library Commission, but this also failed. Similar bills, except that they provided for the extending the control of the proposed library commission over the state library, were introduced in 1905 and 1907, but without success. In 1909 the organizations joined forces so effectively that their bill was passed and approved.

The duties of the Texas Library and Historical Commission thus created were grouped under three heads:

1. To control and administer the State Library and to maintain therein a legislative reference section for the use of the legislature, heads of departments and citizens.
2. To conduct library extension work, which included giving advice and assistance in the establishment of public libraries and the holding of library institutes.
3. To perform the functions of a department of archives and history. It was directed by the law to "collect materials relating to the history of Texas and the adjoining states, to preserve, classify and publish the manuscript archives and such other matters as it

may deem proper, to diffuse knowledge in regard to the history of Texas, to encourage historical work and research, to mark historic sites and houses and secure their preservation."

We are concerned here with only the last of these three duties.

The law went into effect on March 19, 1909, and the state library became, under the new commission, a separate department of the state government. The members of the commission were five in number—three appointed by the governor and two *ex-officio*, the state superintendent of public instruction and "the professor of history" at the University of Texas, George P. Garrison. Mr. Winkler was elected librarian. No archivist was provided for during the first two years; but in 1911, an appropriation having been made for the position, Miss Elizabeth H. West of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, was elected archivist.

Notwithstanding its cramped quarters and a staff always too small for the work that needed to be done, the library under the new regime began to grow rapidly both in size and usefulness.² The collection of books, pamphlets, newspapers and manuscripts steadily increased through gifts and purchase. Thousands of manuscripts were brought in from the several departmental archives—about 100,000 at one time from the comptroller's basement—and transcripts were obtained from the archives of Mexico, Cuba and Spain. By means of special legislative appropriations two notable private collections of manuscripts were purchased—the Mirabeau B. Lamar Papers in 1909 and the John H. Reagan Papers in 1911. Lamar had been a soldier of the Texas Revolution, President of the Republic, and United States Minister to Nicaragua and Costa Rica. His papers not only include much of his own personal and official correspondence but also much that he had gathered for the purpose of writing a history of Texas. John H. Reagan had been a congressman from Texas, postmaster-general of the Confederacy, United States Senator and chairman of the first railway commission of Texas. Most of this group of papers pertains to his services to the Confederacy. Many other smaller groups, some of them very valuable, were also obtained.

The newspaper collection was growing steadily. Immediately

² For the development of the library under the new commission see the *First and Second Biennial Reports of the Texas Library and Historical Commission*, 1909-1910, and 1911-1912; also E. W. Winkler "Some Historical Activities of the Texas Library and Historical Commission" in the *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, XIV, 294-304.

after the fire of 1881 the more prominent papers of the State had been subscribed for, and the files of these from that date have been bound and are in good order. Strenuous efforts on the part of Judge Rains first and Mr. Winkler afterwards to find files of the early papers were rewarded with fair success. Among the early files may be mentioned: *The Telegraph and Texas Register* (Houston), 1836-1845; *The Matagorda Bulletin*, 1837-1839; *The Austin City Gazette*, 1839-1842; *The Colorado Gazette and Advertiser* (Matagorda), 1839-1842; *The Morning Star* (Houston), 1839-1846; *El Correo Atlantico* (Mexico City and New Orleans), 1835-1836; *The Redlander* (San Augustine) and *The True Issue* (La Grange), both of the period of the Republic; *The State Gazette* (Austin), 1849-1854; *The Texas Republican* (Marshall), 1849-1868; *The San Antonio Herald*, 1865-1879; and the *Neu Braunsfeler Zeitung*, 1853-1872. *The Weekly Delta* (New Orleans), 1847-1862, also contains many Texas items. Several of these files are incomplete for the periods indicated, but some are the only copies known to be in existence. Their value for the social history of their times can be appreciated only by those who have examined them.

One of the functions of the commission as set out by the act which created it was the publication of documentary material on the history of Texas. This duty naturally fell upon the library staff. The first biennial report of the librarian, in 1911, contained the *Secret Journals of the Republic of Texas*, 1836-1845. It was followed in 1912 by the *Journal of the Secession Convention of Texas*, 1861. Both were edited by Mr. Winkler. The second biennial report contained a calendar of the Lamar Papers, prepared by Miss West. When he left the library in 1915 Mr. Winkler had in preparation a volume of the messages of the governors of Texas which he was obliged to leave in an unfinished state. It was subsequently published in this unfinished condition with another person's name attached as editor. Since 1915 the most notable publication of the library is that of the Lamar Papers in six volumes. The first four volumes appeared from 1920 to 1925, selected and edited by Charles A. Gulick with the assistance of Katherine Elliott and Winnie Allen, archivists. Two supplementary volumes, completing the task, edited by Harriet Smither, archivist, appeared in 1928.

In January, 1915, James E. Ferguson was inaugurated governor

of Texas. He made a thorough application of the spoils system and determined to replace Mr. Winkler with one of his own supporters. To this end he appointed three of the five members of the commission with the understanding that a candidate of his own should be elected librarian. Despite the resistance of the *ex-officio* members, on April 15, 1915, Mr. C. Klaerner, a well-intentioned man but without experience in such work, became librarian. Mr. Winkler was shortly afterwards given a place in the library of the University of Texas where his services have been invaluable and where he has been librarian since 1923. When he left it, the state library was by far the largest repository of historical material relating to Texas and the Southwest in existence. It is now surpassed only by the University library; but in manuscripts and newspapers the two supplement rather than duplicate each other. Miss West also left the state library, but in 1918, after the removal of Governor Ferguson by impeachment, she returned to the library as its head. She resigned in 1925 and was succeeded by Miss Octavio Rogan, formerly head of the legislative reference section. Miss Rogan resigned in 1927. Miss Fannie M. Wilcox is now acting-librarian. In 1918 Miss Katherine Elliott became archivist. During a leave of absence, 1923-1924, her place was filled by Miss Winnie Allen. Miss Elliott resigned in 1925 and was succeeded by Miss Harriet Smither. All these are very competent, but they have been greatly handicapped in their work by lack of room for the proper arrangement and use of the manuscripts and by inadequate funds.

During these latter years the activities of the commission have turned more and more to the development of the legislative reference work and to the promotion of public libraries. This change has been due to several things: inadequate appropriations; lack of space for expansion or even for the use of the library by students; and by the activity of the University of Texas in the collection of all sorts of historical materials. The University is now largely doing the work that the commission was created to do in 1909. The state library for twenty years has shared with the library of the Supreme Court one large room on the north side of the second floor of the capitol building. This room might be large enough for one; it certainly is not large enough for both; but the legislature has provided no relief. A large portion of the state library's books and some newspapers are now stored in basement rooms which have

no connection with the room on the second floor and are otherwise ill-adapted to library purposes. It is to be hoped that relief will come soon, since the archives of Texas are extremely rich in unworked material for the investigator. Adequate space would not only make the task of the researcher easier but would undoubtedly draw many more students to the treasures stored there.

Besides the historical material in the state library itself, there is much in the general land office and in the adjutant general's office. Both will probably continue to keep control of their own records, but both have taken measures to make them available to a limited number of investigators. The records of the land office are so enormous and the history of Texas public lands so intricate that no one has yet had the hardihood to venture far into that field. But few students have attempted to exploit the papers in the adjutant general's office, chiefly because they are still difficult of access. Of particular value are the records of the Texas ranger organizations which during the earlier periods guarded the wide frontiers of Texas against marauding Indians and more lately have performed the duties of a state constabulary. These papers also contain valuable evidence of the social and economic conditions of the State for more than eighty years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARY

As the state library has come more and more to restrict its historical activities to taking over and arranging the departmental archives of the state government, the University of Texas library has entered the wider field and is engaged in collecting everything available in the way of books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, manuscripts and whatever else may be of value concerning the history of Texas and the Southwest. It is therefore performing part of the work usually undertaken by state-supported historical societies and historical commissions. While its assumption of this function is perhaps not unique, it has probably gone more thoroughly into this work than has any other state university in the country. The great collection which it now has is due in part to good fortune, in part to the generosity of friends, and in considerable degree to the ambition of the members of the department of history to supply graduate students in the field of Southwestern history with ample resources.

The first considerable contribution to the University library in the field of Texas history came in 1897 when Sir Swante Palm, for a long time Swedish consul and resident of Austin, presented his private library of more than 10,000 volumes. Included in his gift was a large number of books and pamphlets on Texas and many bound volumes of early Texas newspapers. The very next year the University came into possession of the Bexar Archives, a marvelous collection of some 300,000 folios, the records of the Spanish and Mexican governments of Texas for more than a century. These papers had accumulated at San Antonio de Bexar and, surviving wars and revolutions, were given to the University on condition that they be calendared and made available for public use. They are the very foundation of all investigation in early Texas history; but they contain also a great number of royal and vice-royal decreets and other documents concerning the Spanish dependencies generally in North America. Since it was the custom of Spanish officials to make copies of ascending or descending official reports, it has been possible to find in the archives of Mexico or Spain copies of documents that have been lost from the archives of Bexar. The University has obtained some 70,000 transcripts of such supplementary materials. It is easy to see how the Bexar Archives and the Nacogdoches Archives, already described as in the state library, together form an inexhaustible treasure-trove for the student.

In 1901 the literary executors of the Hon. Guy M. Bryan, nephew of Stephen F. Austin, gave to the University the large and precious collection known as the Austin Papers. They cover the years from 1789 to 1836 and record the movement of the Austin family from Connecticut through Pennsylvania, Virginia and Missouri to Texas. Most of them are concerned with the great colonization work of Stephen F. Austin in Texas. With additions diligently sought for elsewhere, these papers have been published in three large volumes in the *Annual Reports of the American Historical Association* for 1919 and 1922, with a fourth and final volume issued by the University of Texas Press, all edited by Professor Eugene C. Barker.

Until about 1910 the legislative appropriations to the University for the purchase of historical material were small, and most of the money was devoted to Texas and the Southwest, the fields in which nearly all the research by members of the department of history in those days was being done. A respectable collection had been

accumulated. Gradually the appropriations increased as the department grew and other fields were entered; but the money available for Texas history was inadequate until supplemented by a notable gift. In 1914 Major George W. Littlefield, ex-Confederate soldier, cattleman and banker, who had become a University regent, gave a fund of \$25,000 to be known as "The Littlefield Fund for Southern History." It was to be administered not by the regents but by a special committee. The money was invested carefully and only the interest used. During his lifetime Major Littlefield supplemented the income from this Fund by special cash gifts for emergency uses to the total amount of more than \$30,000, and at his death in November, 1920, he left an additional amount of \$100,000 in high grade bonds to the Fund. The income is used primarily for the purchase of historical material relating to the older South, but as Texas is largely southern some of it has gone for Texas history.

By purchase or gift the Texas collection at the University has grown steadily, especially since Mr. E. W. Winkler came to the library in 1915 and began devoting his extraordinary knowledge of Texas bibliography to the acquisition of *Texana*. Very few indeed are the printed books or even pamphlets of any value whatever for Texas history that have not been acquired. The collection of newspapers and manuscripts has been given special attention. It is impracticable to list all the newspapers here, but among the files are: *The Telegraph and Texas Register*, 1835-1845; *The Texas State Gazette*, 1849-1867; *The Northern Standard*, 1842-1885; *The Dallas Herald*, 1859-1885; *The Dallas News*, 1885 to date; *The Galveston News*, 1873 to date; *The Austin Statesman*, 1871 to date. There are numerous short runs of papers from all parts of Texas and complete files of practically all the more important newspapers of the State since about 1903. Of the 10,000 bound volumes of newspapers in the library, about half are of Texas. Some of the files from outside the State contain useful material on early Texas, such as the *Arkansas Gazette*, 1819 to 1861, and the *New Orleans Picayune*, 1837-1861. These last were obtained through the Littlefield Fund. Since newspaper files require much room for shelving and the present library building has long been outgrown, the newspapers have been removed to the loft of one of the larger class-room buildings. Though this room has been

fitted up as well as possible with shelving, lights and tables, one has to climb three long flights of stairs and suffer the ill effects of poor ventilation and heat. In the summer no electric fans can fully overcome the heat. In winter it is more endurable but the place is never inviting. But relief is in sight. A considerable extension of the library building is about to be made, and it is fairly well assured that within a year or two from this date the newspapers will be in a commodious, well-lighted room where they can be examined in comfort.

When the Bexar Archives and the Austin Papers were first acquired their administration was entrusted to the department of history; but with the accumulation of large quantities of other manuscripts they were all transferred to the library and constituted a division of archives. The archivists, Mrs. M. A. Hatcher and Miss Winnie Allen, the librarian, the members of the department of history, and graduate students in American History have sought in all directions for the official or private papers of Texans, great or obscure, that throw any light whatever upon the history of the people. Among the more important groups thus collected are: the papers of Ashbel Smith, physician, diplomatic representative of the Republic of Texas in England and France, and long prominent in state affairs; of Edward Burleson, frontiersman; of Ben C. Franklin, a judge during the days of the Republic; of E. L. Wheelock, frontiersman; of "Buck" Barry, frontiersman; of the well-known Maverick family of San Antonio; of O. M. Roberts, political leader, chief justice of the state supreme court, and governor; and of J. W. Throckmorton, governor. Some of the smaller groups, unnamed here, are of unique value. A recent leaflet published by the library lists more than one hundred distinct groups of papers, though not all belong to Texas. Many others have been located, some of which have been promised; and hardly a month goes by without the receipt of some valuable collection.

In addition to original manuscripts, thousands of photostatic copies of documents in other places have been obtained. Many small groups of private papers that could not be acquired permanently have been borrowed and copied by photostat. Among the more notable groups of official photostats is the complete correspondence in the office of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs

in Washington, relating to Texas Indians from 1846 to 1861. Similar copies have been made of the original population schedules of the census enumerators' returns for a number of Texas counties in 1850 and 1860, and it is planned to complete these series. At the present time the archives of several Mexican towns along the south side of the Rio Grande are being examined for documents relating to Texas and photostat copies made of those found. The indications are that they will run high into the thousands. The archives are now crowded into a large vault and one adjacent room where calendaring, copying and research go on together as best they can; but the plans for the extension of the library building provide for greatly enlarged space and much better working conditions. The library building is fire-proof.

Even a brief summary of the materials preserved in the University library for the study of Texas history would be incomplete without mention of the Genaro García Collection, purchased in 1921, from the heirs of the Mexican historian whose name it bears. This wonderful collection is devoted primarily to the history of Mexico, but in the nature of things it contains much both in print and manuscript relating to Texas and supplements most admirably the material in the state library and in the Texas Collection in the University library.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN TEXAS

The first historical society of importance in Texas was organized at Galveston in 1871 and was known as the Galveston Historical Society. It gathered considerable material, but the society ceased activities many years ago. A portion of its collection was lost in the great storm that swept over Galveston in September, 1900. What was left has been deposited in the Rosenberg Library in Galveston.

The Texas State Historical Association, already referred to as organized in 1897, is the largest and most important historical society in Texas. It has never been financially able to purchase historical material; but it has received thousands of volumes of exchanges and some valuable gifts which it has deposited in the library of the University where they are available. One of the most important of these gifts is the Philip C. Tucker Collection which contains much valuable material on the history of Galveston.

The Association has devoted its meagre financial resources to the publication of a Quarterly, now called the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, which is in its thirty-second volume. It is widely recognized as the authoritative journal on the history of Texas. One of the chief functions of the state-supported historical society or commission, as it usually exists in other states—the publication of a journal—is performed in Texas, therefore, by a self-supporting organization. The work of editing the *Quarterly* and of managing the affairs of the Association has always fallen upon certain members of the staff of the department of history of the University.

Of late years several sectional historical societies have sprung up in different parts of Texas. The West Texas Historical Association, with headquarters at Abilene, has for four years published a valuable *Year-book* containing the proceedings of its annual meetings. At Canyon, further west, are the headquarters of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society which has collected much useful matter on the history of the plains region as well as some interesting museum material. In the summer of 1928 it issued the first number of *The Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*. The East Texas Historical Society, organized about three years ago, is also active and has ready for publication its second bulletin which will contain the papers read at its meeting at Huntsville in the spring of 1928. All of these organizations are closely connected with colleges and the motive force for each is found chiefly in the college history departments. Several county and city historical societies are in existence, but they have done little in the way of collecting or publishing.

The state of Texas has done something but not nearly what it should have done for the preservation of its historical records. The legislative appropriations for each of its two great repositories have been meagre in comparison with what has been needed. No workable provision has ever been made for the transfer of the rich county records to a central depository, for the only law on the subject merely *allows* county and district clerks to transfer those records that are no longer needed to the state library or to the University library, and they have felt no compulsion to do this. Considering the circumstances, what has been done is indeed notable, but it has been due to good fortune, to intelligent gifts, and to the energy and devotion of a handful of workers.

Despite these complaints of a lack of perfection, however, it is easy to see that the investigator has abundant opportunities for research in the history of Texas from the times of Cabeza de Vaca and La Salle to Governor Dan Moody. Fortunately for the student the materials are fairly well concentrated, for the Texas State Library and the University of Texas Library are within fifteen minutes easy walk of each other. The difficulties one encounters are not due to lack of materials as much as to the physical discomfort of narrow, crowded working quarters where it is almost impossible to find an unoccupied table on which to spread books and documents. There is a fair prospect that this condition will soon be remedied in each of the two libraries. Perhaps the greatest need is for more generous legislative appropriations for searching the State over for other old newspaper files and for the hundreds of thousands of manuscripts which are suffering destruction every day because their owners do not understand their value to the historian.